



San Diego City Attorney CASEY GWINN

MEDIA RELEASE

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Sherman Heights Auto Repair Owner Sent to Jail for Ignoring Court Order

San Diego, CA (January 9, 2001) — He promised the court he would correct the code violations on his Sherman Heights property — the unlawful outdoor storage, the unpermitted signs and building additions, the razor wire fencing, and the improper lot subdivision. He didn't keep that promise. Today, defendant Jose Serrano is spending time in jail.

Serrano owns and operates an auto repair business at 2404-2430 Market Street. The property has been improperly maintained with multiple violations of the San Diego Municipal Code for years. In February 2000, the City Attorney's Code Enforcement Unit, with the help of Neighborhood Code Compliance, filed a 16-count criminal complaint against Serrano, alleging the Municipal Code violations. On June 14, 2000, Serrano pleaded "no contest" to four misdemeanor charges and was placed on probation for three years. The court ordered him to pay \$3000 in fines, \$864 in investigative costs, and to correct all of the violations on the property according to a specific schedule.

Subsequent inspections of the property revealed that Serrano had failed to comply with his conditions of probation. On December 7, 2000, Serrano admitted violating his probation. Commissioner Margie Woods sentenced Serrano to 120 days custody, and stayed the custody until today — January 9, 2001, when Serrano was ordered to return to court with proof of compliance.

Today, Serrano appeared in court and failed to show proof of compliance. Commissioner Woods ordered Serrano into custody for twenty days and expressed her hope that the jail time would send a "clear message" that he must immediately comply with the court's order.



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The case was continued for one month, for Serrano to show proof of full compliance or he will face the remaining 100 days in jail. “The City Attorney’s Office takes code enforcement cases seriously because we understand the negative impact that code violations can have on a community,” City Attorney Casey Gwinn said. “When a business has improper wire fencing, unpermitted signs and building additions, and other code violations, it creates an eye sore to the community, and discourages local investment and community revitalization. We are dedicated to working with community members to ensure community concerns are addressed.”

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